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March 2013 No 683

## Man escapes from custody!



**Fredrick Töben writes a letter to Brendon O'Connell,  
Albany Regional Prison, Locked Bag 2,  
Albany WA 6330, Australia**

### 6 March 2013

Brendon – a quick note to you regarding the matter of possible Mossad involvement in your case – some time ago I applied for a US visa renewal at the US Consulate, Melbourne, and when they returned my passport containing the requested visa a copy of a letter written in 2000 by a Jewish group in Melbourne was also enclosed.

Was not Ben Zygier's father at one time head of this Melbourne-based Jewish Masonic organisation, B'nai B'rith? It was Benseon Apple who wrote this letter to the US Consulate in Melbourne trying to frustrate my travel plans. Usually if anyone has a complaint to make about another person, then that person should put such a complaint in writing and address that person directly, which is done in a genuine steps statement, and since a couple of years ago is now standard legal practice before anyone commences a legal action in an Australian court.

What I find interesting about this letter from 2000 is that it proves how basic natural justice is not accorded to those who are targeted by such individuals, and when that is exposed they intimidate those in power to act on their behalf – but you know all that, and you have proven that you will not bend to their pressure, as do many judges, et. Al. when confronted with this lobby's behind-the-scene machinations.

Still, there are exceptions and I note that Jewish parliamentarian Michael Danby has hopped into Foreign Minister Bob Carr for allowing Australia to vote at the UN for the recognition of a Palestinian State!

Also, the current Ben Zygier affair will not die down because it has revealed what many Australians did not know, i.e. that you can get a new Australian passport every year – under a different name. This is the ideal instrument for terrorists states such as Israel.

12/05 '00 15:09 FAX 61 2 62145816

POL SECTION

002/008

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PAGE 1



The B'nai B'rith  
**Anti-Defamation Commission Inc.**  
Australia / New Zealand

Registration No. A 0037143P

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Steven,

As per our conversation yesterday, please find attached a background briefing paper on the Adelaide Institute, of which Fredrick Toben is the director.

As we discussed, Toben has either arrived or is on his way to California for the conference of the Institute for Historical Review, a large Holocaust denial organisation. I have contacted the Anti-Defamation League in the US for further information as to the exact date of this conference.

The way in which Fredrick Toben spells his first and last names is unusual and will assist in identifying him. Toben was born in Jade, Germany on 2 June 1944 and came to Australia in 1954. He is the son of Johannes Toben and Adelheid (nee Soltys). He currently resides in the suburb of Norwood in Adelaide.

In November 1999 Toben was convicted in Mannheim, Germany, for "defaming the dead". The attached briefing paper provides further information as to his activities and racist ideology.

Please let me know should you require any further information and whether you are able to ascertain if Toben is currently in the US.

Thankyou for your help in this matter.

Kind regards,

Ben Aaron Apple  
Director of Research & Public Affairs

PO Box 450, South Caulfield, Victoria 3162 Tel: (61 3) 9527 1228 Fax: (61 3) 9525 9127  
Email: antidef@ozemail.com.au

12/05 '00 FRI 15:14 [TX/RX NO 9434] 002

Now to your case. Perhaps you saw on this evening's **ABC TV 7.30** Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, stating that Ben Zygier was employed by Mossad and that Australia's security agencies knew about it. Here is the picture gallery that may link Mossad and ASIO, which

the new Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, has already rejected, i.e. in the Zygier 'suicide' he claims ASIO and Mossad did not communicate, i.e. Zygier was not reporting to ASIO.





If the centre person is definitely the same as the ones to the left and right of him, then your observations and statements about meeting up with Zygier at the Perth protest meeting will have proven correct, i.e. the highest level of government is involved in your receiving a 3-year sentence for exposing a foreign nation's spying activity in Australia.

I had the same thing happen to me in London in October-November 2008 when London and Berlin settled my extradition issue over the top of the Mannheim public prosecutor's endeavours – and luckily for me a government executive order had me released. As in my case, this will clearly make your case a political matter because I had about half a dozen Germans from the consulate observing proceedings. And you had a whole bunch of Jews observing your trial, which was vital for them because you knew too much about their spying activity.

Now talking about pictures, last Thursday I sent off from Adelaide Airport per air express courier Jack van Tongeren's entry in the Archibald Portrait Prize. Instructions were that the picture was to be delivered to the New South Wales Art Gallery not before 8 am on Monday 4 March 2013. Guess what happened? Apparently it was dropped off Friday late afternoon, then Monday morning, sometime during unpacking the glass was broken, the frame damaged and the picture scratched. Luckily I had a friend in Sydney who was able to collect the picture from the Gallery and have

most of the damage repaired in time before submissions close this Friday, 8 March 2013.

Jack is in full conspiratorial mode and I just wonder whether this was just sloppy delivery and handling that did the damage or whether someone passed on to certain individuals at the Art Gallery the information that the portrait Jack drew was of Holocaust Revisionist Fredrick Töben.



**Unframed portrait**

A couple of years ago someone had an interest in doing this as well but the artist was warned that such a job would cost him his career. Well, Jack is not afraid of anyone and he lives quietly on his plot at Pinnaroo, South Australia.



**Picture framed, titled, and ready to be wrapped up and air-freighted to Sydney – and it ends up broken...**

### The Ides of March

Brendon, remember when students were still taught factual history and literary studies, which so delightfully combined into the masterpieces created by Shakespeare – and it doesn't matter if we disagree on who actually wrote those works because they are timeless and instructive for anyone who is interested in what human nature is all about. Julius Caesar met his fate on the Ides of March, didn't he?

Teaching literature consisted of showing students what life is all about, not of robbing their innocence under the pretext that they needed to sexually liberate themselves from bourgeoisie morality. I recall we had a teacher in Year 190 who wanted to teach us all about sex, but we didn't want instructions from him – we wanted to find out for ourselves and then at our own pace. It was bad enough having the braggers in class who claimed to have conquered so many – even then we knew that such noisy individuals were just that, all huff and bluff, while the silent students were the thinkers and often the innovators and explorers who deeply thought about the human condition, who were not impressed with teachers telling them to 'have fun and enjoy yourself'. Life for them was more serious than that! Now it seems the public education system

delights in robbing individuals of their innermost thoughts, the result of Talmudic-Marxist ideological thrustings transmitted from tertiary education systems that aim to neutralise an individual's self-development. You would be aware how the two concepts of 'discrimination' and 'choice' actually neutralises solid thinking processes.

And then there was this nonsense about poetry having died because of 'Auschwitz'. – and thus began the Judaisation of our western intellectual world. Basic moral values, essential concepts such as truth and beauty and love, have been thrown overboard and replaced with crass materialism-consumerism. That is why your quest for knowledge is so misunderstood because those whom you expose as fraudsters and liars and schemers have little inner life where ideals matter and exist as a guiding light so that the mind can find a home within itself, and where that infantile activity of scapegoating is banished.

But all this is nothing new because you have wrestled with your own demons and have successfully overcome them.

By the way, are you now working, as I was for three months painting posts?



**I've just dug into the archive and found the following, and I can't say that I could improve on it, which means I cannot see my own blind spots anymore. That's a sign of maturity-old age coming on!**

**1.** With Kant I share a basic Weltanschauung - worldview: Two things inspire me - the stars above me and the moral law within me.

**2.** With Hegel I share the basic life-giving universal dialectic process as opposed to the death-dialectic of Talmud-Marxism.

**3.** The life-denying dialectic of Talmud-Marxism states that opposites fight to the death - only one survives. It is the predatory-parasitical and dictatorial win-lose thought-pattern of the individual

whose value system consists of envy and hatred where truth as a moral guiding value has no home. Many Holocaust believers embody such a mindset, then attempt to project it upon those who refuse to believe in their nonsense.

**4.** Hegel's life-affirming dialectic states that opposites come together and in the synthesis conserve half of each, as for example when the thesis-man meets the antithesis-woman to produce the synthesis-child. It is the civilized win-win

thought-pattern that enables an individual to attain a maximum of personal freedom and maturity with which it is possible to participate in the pulsations of the Godly universe.

**5.** Within this worldview truth-telling is an absolute moral virtue because the foundation of our civilization rests on it. Without the truth concept human interactions break down because there is no trust and life becomes a raw battle for power and consumerism where

individuals have no time to participate in any civilizing influences of a cultural nature.

**6.** This above-described primitive battle-of-the-wills is warmly embraced by the Talmudists who are currently exterminating the Palestinian people under the pretext that Adolf Hitler and the German people systematically exterminated European Jews in homicidal gas chambers, in particular at Auschwitz concentration camp.

**7.** Questioning any aspect of this horrendous allegation of murder by Germans of Jews is today not permitted because the narrative is legally protected - and the German people still do not have a peace treaty, hence anything goes with Germans having no rights to defend their heritage.

**8.** Anyone who refuses to believe in the Holocaust narrative faces prison time. Why? Just ask the basic question: Cui Bono - in whose interest is it being legally protected?

**9.** An instructive example comes from Poland. Until 1989 any Pole who dared tell the truth about the Katyn Massacre faced similar sanctions in Poland. It was state dogma to say the Germans did Katyn. Anyone who did not conform to the state-controlled worldview that the Germans perpetrated the Katyn Massacre was socially and economically destroyed and criminalized through prison sentences. Only after the Communist ideology crumbled were Poles free to state that it was the Soviet Union that did Katyn.

**10.** So, too, it is with the Holocaust-Shoah narrative that Professor Arthur Butz called 'The Hoax of the Twentieth Century'. In time this dogmatic myth will also be replaced with the truth because as Arthur Schopenhauer, 1788-1860, stated so clearly:

All truth passes through three stages.

**First it is ridiculed.**

**Second, it is violently opposed.**

**Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.**

Well, Brendon, that's it for now. Take care and until next time Kindest - Fredrick

PS: I'll add a few more items that should interest you, perhaps!

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### **Former Australian FM: Zygier did more than share info – Ynet**

Former Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer estimated Tuesday that Ben Zygier was arrested on far more serious charges than relaying information on the Mossad to Australia's intelligence agencies.

"I suspect it was something more serious than just sharing information with ASIO," he told ABC radio on Tuesday. "I suspect that's not the reason he ended up in jail." Downer revealed he once raised with Israel's Foreign Ministry allegations that Mossad was using Australian passports to carry out operations abroad.

"I did warn them that they shouldn't use Australian passports, or false Australian passports," he said, adding the discussion occurred sometime between 2005 and 2007. Israel "took note" of his concerns, he said.

Meanwhile, the Zygier family has broken its silence and is now demanding that Israel disclose the

circumstances of the alleged Mossad agent's death. "We demand that Israel tell us exactly what happened to Ben," a family member told Yedioth Ahronoth's Daniel Edelson.

"We are anxiously waiting for the report of the Israeli inquiry commission to be published."

#### **Australia Jews break silence**

Also Tuesday, Australia's Sidney Morning Herald reported that the country's leading Jewish community organization has broken a week-long silence on the case of the death of the Australian-Israel dual national.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry welcomed announcements by the Australian and Israeli governments of inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the death of Ben Zygier.

"We welcome the fact that the Israeli Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Subcommittee for

Intelligence and the Israeli State Attorney's office have both announced that they will be conducting investigations into the circumstances surrounding Ben Zygier's death," Executive Council President Dr Danny Lamm said in a written statement.

On Monday, ABC Australia reported that Zygier, also known as "Prisoner X," was questioned by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization about his connection to the Israeli intelligence agency.

It was after the ASIO interrogation that Zygier was arrested in 2010, the report said; adding that it is believed that he "told ASIO about every aspect of his work with the Israelis."

[www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4346591,00.html](http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4346591,00.html)

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### **Report: Zygier and his partners were 'successful agents'**



**Der Spiegel says 'Prisoner X' and 'two other Australian Jews' were employed by straw company set up in Milan by Mossad. 'The nature of their business gave them access to military and secret installations,' report says. Israel: 'Prisoner X' had no links to ASIO, 02.19.13, 20:33 / Israel News**

The online edition of German news magazine [Der Spiegel](#) revealed on Tuesday additional details on the [Ben Zygier affair](#). According to the report, the "two other Australian Jews" who worked for Mossad alongside Zygier were known as Paul Y. and David Z. The magazine also tracked down the Italy-based [straw company](#) that served Mossad and employed the three agents.

Zygier died aged 34, just four days after the birth of his second child, on December 15, 2010, in a solitary confinement cell in the Ayalon high-security prison near Tel Aviv. He was [reported](#) to have hanged himself.

The story has dominated headlines in Israel for the past week. According to Australian media, Zygier worked for Israel's [Mossad](#) spy agency and was mysteriously imprisoned by Israel in 2010 for unspecified security offenses.

Israel kept the case under wraps for more than two years, acknowledging it last week only 24 hours after Australian ABC broke the story. Israeli officials said he had been a [danger](#) to national security.

According to the Der Spiegel report, Zygier, also known as "Prisoner X," and his two partners who also worked for the Milan firm were reported to have been "successful agents." The magazine quoted an Australian intelligence source as saying, "The nature of their business gave them access to military and secret installations."

The magazine claimed the affair "provides insight into the methods of Mossad. It shows how the service recruits agents and masks operations."

The report said that, like Zygier, Y. and Z. also moved to Israel. The three of them - all holding dual Israeli and Australian citizenship - got jobs with the Milan-based firm. Back in Australia, they applied for new names. Ben Zygier got the names Benjamin Burrows and

Benjamin Allen. Y. and Z. also changed their names at least twice, Der Spiegel claimed.

"But in 2009 their repeated name-changing aroused the interest of the Australian authorities - especially when Zygier handed in his old passports, filled with Iranian entry visas. Paul Y. spent a lot of time in Syria, Iran, Egypt and Dubai. David Z., too, travelled to Iran several times. That wasn't just evident from his passport stamps. During one trip in 2004, he sought help from the Australian consulate in Tehran," according to the report.

Der Spiegel said that as a young man Zygier got involved with the "Community Security Group" in Melbourne, a "kind of Jewish citizens' defense league." These groups often have links to Mossad and are instructed by agents, the magazine claimed. "Zygier was probably recruited in this way. At around the same time, Paul Y. and David Z. were recruited," it said.

As early as last week The Guardian reported that Zygier was employed by a straw company set up by Mossad in Europe which sold electronic components to Iran.

Der Spiegel said the Milan-based company specializes in the sale of satellite communications technology.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office released a statement on Tuesday claiming that Zygier had no links to Australian security agencies and organizations. The statement was released amid reports that Zygier disclosed detailed information on Mossad to the Australian Security Intelligence Organization.

Earlier Tuesday, a report penned by Judge Daphna Blatman Kedrai about the circumstances that led to Zygier's death was released. The report said there was evidence to suggest that failures by Israel Prison Service personnel caused his death.

The judge agreed to publish parts of the report following a petition filed by media outlets with the Rishon Lezion Magistrates' Court. The report said that Zygier used a bed sheet to hang himself in his cell's toilet.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4347009,00.html>

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**Analysis: Australian intelligence agency's conduct played key role in Mossad operative's decision to commit suicide  
02.17.13, 12:10**

Ben Zygier was a victim. From details that have already been published by British and Australian media we learn that he was a victim of his own personality and also of the over-enthusiasm and lack of caution on the part of his handlers in Israel. Most infuriating is the fact that people who worked for the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) purposely got the [Mossad](#) operative in hot water and indirectly contributed to his decision to commit suicide.

According to the details that have surfaced so far, Zygier and two of his colleagues, who were also born in Australia and held Australian citizenship, were recruited to Mossad at the beginning of the last decade. After a few years of service in Europe, the three were sent back to Australia to obtain new, authentic passports. Australian law allows a person to change his name and have a passport issued under the new name every calendar year. The three took advantage of this law, ASIO claims, to obtain a number of passports under various names that concealed their Jewish identities and presented them as Australians with an [Anglo-Saxon](#) background.

Zygier, for instance, had four passports issued during the four years he had spent in Australia. The Australians claim Mossad needed these passports to allow fighters

and spies to enter enemy states such as Iran and [Syria](#) and carry out missions under false identities. Apparently Zygier and his friends were not sent on missions in these "target states" themselves, but their passports were used by other people who operated under assumed names. Zygier was not in Dubai, as the Kuwait newspaper claimed.

These events occurred at the time of the [al-Aqsa Intifada](#), when Mossad increased its activity regarding the monitoring and thwarting of the Iranian nuclear program, and at the same time prevented the smuggling of weapons and terror attacks initiated by Iran – such as the transfer of arms and aid to Syria, Hezbollah and the Palestinian organizations. This activity increased significantly after then-prime minister Sharon appointed Meir Dagan as Mossad chief in 2002 and instructed him to focus on [Iran](#).

During this time a number of embarrassing work accidents occurred that angered some of Israel's allies. One such incident occurred in 2004 in New Zealand, one of Australia's closest allies. Another incident was the assassination of Mabhough, [Hamas'](#) smuggler, during which it was revealed that Mossad operatives made extensive use of authentic passports belonging to Jews, including Australian Jews - at least this is what the Dubai police chief claimed. During this time, the ASIO also claimed that an Israeli diplomat from the embassy in Canberra took advantage of romantic relations to gather information on the activities of the Australian government. The diplomat, Amir Laty, was deported from Australia in 2005. Against this background, Australian government offices were apparently instructed to raise their level of alertness regarding Israeli activity to gather information, and in 2009 the government office in charge of issuing passports warned of the

frequent name changes by Zygier and his colleagues.

The warning was relayed to ASIO, which apparently began to follow the three and later summon them for questioning. According to Australian newspaper The Age and another newspaper based in Brisbane, Zygier became the main suspect following things he said during the interrogation or due to details revealed by one of his colleagues. However, this occurred before the diplomatic crisis between Israel and Australia that broke out following the [Mabhough assassination](#). Seemingly, there was no reason for Australia to act against Zygier because he did not commit any acts of espionage on its soil or collect any information on the country.

The ASIO is tasked only with foiling subversive and terrorist activity against Australia. Apparently, the intelligence agency had no evidence indicating that the passports issued for Zygier were used illegally. It is also possible that the Australian government chose to turn a blind eye for the benefit of the close ties between Mossad and [ASIS](#), Australia's intelligence agency that operates overseas.

But at least some ASIO officials apparently had their own agenda, and they were not willing to give up on the Israeli prey so easily – perhaps due to frustration, damaged professional pride or simply because they were anti-Israel. Or maybe they realized that Zygier was the weak link in the story and thought that more pressure would break him and cause him to reveal all of his activities on behalf of Mossad. It appears that the two other Australian Jews who were interrogated did not disclose enough information, prompting the ASIO to use the media as a tool to apply more pressure.

The plan was to have the media attack Zygier in order to convince him that his activities had been exposed and there is no point in getting in trouble with the

Australian authorities by continuing to conceal them. The ASIO investigation was launched in the summer of 2009. Mabhough was assassinated in February 2010. At the end of that month The Age published an article on how three young Israelis holding Australian citizenship were given passports with false names which they used to enter Iran, Syria and [Lebanon](#).

The reporters who wrote the article were Jason Koutsoukis and Jonathan Pearlman, who had visited Israel for work and were familiar with the Israeli scene. Koutsoukis did not try to hide the fact that their source was an Australian intelligence officer. To justify the surveillance of the Jews with the dual citizenship, reporters were told that as a student, Zygier was in contact with students from [Saudi Arabia](#) and Iran. The reporters were essentially being told that Zygier was spying for Israel on Australian soil and should therefore be followed.

Zygier was in Israel when the Australian intelligence officer leaked the information to Koutsoukis. According to all accounts, he returned to Israel willingly and even reported to his superiors in Mossad that he was interrogated in Australia. It is safe to assume that he also informed Mossad that his colleagues had been questioned as well. But even before the Mabhough assassination, Koutsoukis called Zygier and asked about the passports and his activity in the service of Mossad. Koutsoukis claims an "anonymous source" in Israel gave him Zygier's phone number. It is entirely possible that this source was not Israeli.

In any case, in his conversation with the reporter Zygier denied working for Mossad, but Koutsoukis got the impression that Zygier would eventually tell him the entire story. The reporter continued to call, and Zygier may have softened and told him of his work for the Israeli intelligence agency.

At a certain point it was decided that there was enough evidence to

justify an arrest and an investigation. The rest is known. Zygier was held in isolation under an assumed name because the names on the various passports, including his real name, were known. Zygier was not a senior Mossad operative. It is not surprising that Zygier, a passionate [Zionist](#), could not bear the guilt and committed suicide. He did not betray the country; he simply could not live up to his own expectations and those of his family and his surroundings. The burden became too heavy for his tormented soul.

The question is why ASIO leaked the story to the press. By doing so, the agency knew it was "burning" an Australian citizen and putting at risk the life of a colleague from a friendly intelligence service that assisted Australia, directly and indirectly. Did the ASIO receive authorization to leak the story, or was it a vengeful anti-Israeli act initiated by one or several people in the agency who acted independently? Why do people from within the Australian intelligence community continue to leak details on Zygier's actions to this day?

One of the leaked details was the fact that Zygier and his colleagues worked for a communications company that was based in Italy and sold electronic goods to Iran. Is it these same people who brought this old story back to the headlines? An [ABC](#) reporter claims the source was Israeli, but there are reasons to believe that an Australian, or Australians, also had a hand in the preparation and publication of the article. We may never know the answers to these questions, but it is clear that at least one Australian intelligence organization played a significant role in the tragedy of Zygier and his family.

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**[Global Warming in the Northern Hemisphere? – ed. AI]**

**Rush hour chaos as parts of UK wake up to four inches of snow**

**[EMMA CLARK](#), MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2013**

Parts of the country will be waking up to more than four inches of snow this morning, prompting fears of ice and disruption during rush hour.

Most areas from Scotland down through to south-east England have been hit with a covering of at least two inches of snow. And the worst affected areas, including north England and the Midlands, could have twice that. More than four inches has already settled in High Wycombe according to reports, weather experts said.

Nick Prebble, a forecaster for MeteoGroup, the weather division of the Press Association, said: "There has been quite a lot of snow overnight, the worst affected areas are northern England down through to the Midlands and towards the south-east, and of course Scotland. "Everywhere will see a covering, with most places seeing between one and two inches, but it won't be surprise if some areas get more than four inches. There are reports of nearly four and a half inches in High Wycombe, and even up to an inch in London. The snow will linger in the early morning before slowly easing and being replaced by rain in many places. The snow will thaw quickly so shouldn't cause much disruption."



**A car makes its way down a snow covered street in Penistone, South Yorkshire**

He added that only areas to escape the snow would be west Wales and south-west England. Temperatures are expected to remain cold, hovering a few degrees above freezing point. More light flurries are predicted for tomorrow, with heavier snowfalls due on Wednesday before the weather begins to settle.

The Met Office has issued yellow weather warnings affecting much of England, Scotland and Wales, because of the danger of ice following the snow. It said: "Icy stretches are expected to form on untreated surfaces overnight and into Monday morning. The public should be aware of possible travel disruption."

Over the weekend thousands of passengers were stranded in

America after flights to Britain were grounded when a massive snowstorm hit the US east coast. It dumped more than 3ft of snow from Massachusetts to New Jersey, while hurricane-force winds battered the eastern states and up into Canada, killing at least 14 people.

PA

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rush-hour-chaos-as-parts-of-uk-wake-up-to-four-inches-of-snow-8489308.html>

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**Greek party condemns Holocaust Remembrance Day  
In a separate incident, Golden Dawn politicians denounce 'Judaic barbarity' and express support for Bashar Assad**

**February 19, 2013, 7:57 pm**

ATHENS, Greece (JTA) — The Greek neo-Nazi Golden Dawn Party questioned the need for the country to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, calling it "unacceptable."

In the Greek Parliament last week, Golden Dawn lawmaker Ioannis Lagos asked the education and interior ministers why state institutions and schools commemorate the remembrance day, which is marked on Jan. 27 each year — the day in 1945 that Soviet forces liberated the Auschwitz death camp.

"We have received complaints that on this day, in Greek schools, texts are read which praise the Jews and at the same time portray them as heroes," Lagos said. "Given that at the same time Greek children are completely ignorant of important moments in Greek history and of the real holocausts and heroes of the Greeks, we find it unacceptable that they are taught about the Jewish Holocaust in detail."

In a separate statement on the party website posted over the weekend, Golden Dawn praised the 2013 winner of the World Press Photo Award showing the funeral procession of two children killed in Israel's recent operation in Gaza. The statement called the photo another reminder of "the Judaic barbarity" and accused the Greek government, which it called "the



pawn of International Zionism," of colluding with Israel and American Jewish groups to combat Golden Dawn.

The statement also said the Greek government had abandoned Syria's "legitimate leader (Bashar) Assad" and publicly supported "the murderers of the Syrian opposition"

at the behest of "American-Zionist warhawks."

Golden Dawn swept into the Greek parliament with 19 lawmakers in last year's elections, campaigning on an anti-austerity, anti-immigrant platform that preyed on the fears of Greeks who have seen the country flooded with immigrants amid a

terrible recession. Greek and international Jewish groups have repeatedly condemned Golden Dawn as racist and anti-Semitic.

[www.timesofisrael.com/greek-party-condemns-holocaust-remembrance-day/](http://www.timesofisrael.com/greek-party-condemns-holocaust-remembrance-day/)

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**From Peter Rackemann - [peter48@bigblue.net.au](mailto:peter48@bigblue.net.au)**  
**Some pictures of the January 2013 Queensland Flooding**

**Fred, I am high and dry in Gladstone – a few snaps from Central Queensland – Rockhampton is 110 km NW of Gladstone on the Fitzroy River – we had over a metre of rain in 3 days – that's 8.5 metres going over Awonga Dam, on the Boyne River SW of Gladstone – Internet has been erratic - here goes – Peter**



**Welcome to Rockhampton at the height of the torrential rains and wind.**





**Flood debris covers a bridge at Frenchville, Rockhampton**



**Neerkol Creek half way between Gracemere and Stanwell**



**Flood damage in Shields Avenue, Rockhampton**

**... and now back to another kind of stormy madness, our legal system's mindset that imprisons its own practitioners who believe they themselves are free but have little regard for truth-telling ... one current item and another from the archive...**



# Mr Corruption-buster

ICAC boss Bruce Lander must build an anti-corruption watchdog while easing public fears of a secretive "star chamber". He tells **SEAN FEWSTER** why the ICAC needs secrecy and that justice will be its driving force.

**H**E was able to broker peace between Leyton Hewitt and Andrew McLeod, fined Neil Kerley for illegal yabbee fishing and silenced a Holocaust denier.

Now former Supreme and Federal Court judge Bruce Lander is taking on his most challenging role - leading the state's Independent Commission Against Corruption.

It is a daunting task, but one he approaches with the same moral compass that has guided his 19 years in public office.

"I'm passionate about people having their rights and I believe the law is a powerful weapon in protecting those rights," he says. "Corruption offends me, personally, because it's the antithesis of the beliefs I've stood for all my life."

On Tuesday, Premier Jay Weatherill named Mr Lander head of the state's \$32 million ICAC. The suddenness of the announcement brought about by a last-minute committee meeting was indicative of the years of controversy surrounding the body.

A father of four and grandfather of four more, Mr Lander has sat as a Justice of the Federal

Court since 2003. In 2009 he jailed Holocaust "revisionist" Fredrick Toben, who breached court orders banning him from insulting and abusing Jews on the internet.

Wimbledon champion Hewitt and Crows legend McLeod settled their differences over the tennis ace's DVD before Mr Lander in 2004.

Prior to the Federal Court, Mr Lander was a Supreme Court judge. He jailed

Dharaminder Singh for killing his wife over custody of their daughter and fined football great Neil Kerley \$984 for illegal yabbee fishing. Mr Lander presided over Alan Bond's final court case - a five-year civil claim over \$13 million in paintings alleged to have been wrongly sold by the businessman. Managing that case called on skills Mr Lander developed during his 25 years as a commercial barrister and QC.

Reflecting on the task ahead, Mr Lander said that broad experience would be vital. "I took the role because it's important, because it's different and because I think I can do it," he said.

Mr Lander says he understands the public concern over the ICAC, but feels it is mis-

placed. He wants people to remember he is no longer a judge and is not about to pass sentence on anyone.

"What the Commissioner does is to decide whether, after an investigation, there is sufficient evidence for a person to be prosecuted," he says.

"My function is to ascertain and identify facts for the police or DPP to bring before a court.

"There's no finding of guilt by the Commissioner. It's only whether the evidence is satisfactory or not satisfactory for a person to be charged."

The ICAC, he says, is more like "a well-resourced police officer" than a hooded judge. "The ultimate decision on the allegations will still be up to juries in the Supreme or District courts," he says.

"We're the first stage of an inquiry but can make inquiries police can not because we have much more extensive powers."

Those powers are what scares some people. ICAC investigators can compel people to give evidence. The question of public interest also looms large.

Mr Lander says public hearings make for great news stories but have potentially disastrous consequences.

"I don't think it's any part of an administrative decision-maker's duty to put people to public shame where there might not be sufficient evidence of corruption," he says. More importantly, the very people the

ICAC seeks may, if given public exposure, evade punishment.

"If a person was subjected to a public inquiry, the first application their lawyer would make at trial would be for a permanent stay of the case," Mr Lander said.

"They would make that application on the grounds their client could not get a fair trial and they'd likely be successful."

"What concerns me is, if that were to occur, people who would otherwise be found guilty of corruption would not face trial at all."

"They would escape the consequences of their actions because of the public inquiry."

In addition to field work, staff at the ICAC and Office of Public Integrity will collate a database of alleged corruption, allowing for unprecedented cross-referencing of claims.

"I don't know what sort of corruption is likely to be discovered in SA because there's never been a central repository of evidence and witnesses," Mr Lander says.

"The real advantage is having all this information in one place."

"You don't go in hoping there's corruption, but it would be far too optimistic to think this state is the only one without corruption."

"I don't want to sound too evangelical about this, but I think it's absolutely important that all who hold office remember we are to discharge it in the best interests of the public."

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Fredrick Toben



# Putting Race Hatred Laws to the Test

An Australian who says the Nazi Holocaust was a Jewish "swindle" faces trial next week in Germany

By LEORA MOLDOFSKY

**W**AITING IN SINGAPORE FOR HIS connecting flight from Adelaide to Frankfurt in February this year, Fredrick Toben couldn't resist sharing his "good news" with a German couple. The Third Reich and its accomplices had not systematically exterminated six million Jews, he said: the gas chambers at Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps were a hoax. The Australian Holocaust revisionist thought the Germans would welcome this information; instead, noted Toben in the diary of his European tour, the husband became agitated and fled.

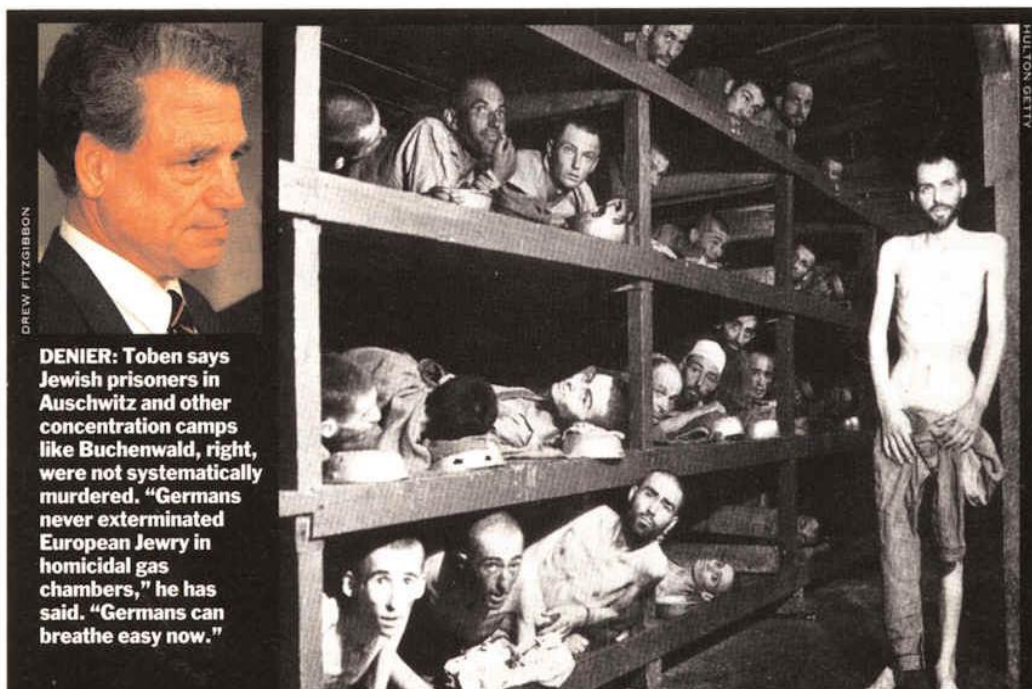
That "study tour" of the U.K., Poland, Ukraine and Germany ended abruptly when Toben, the founder and director of the Adelaide Institute, Australia's most notorious anti-Jewish, Nazi-genocide-denying organization, met with German public prosecutor Hans Klein in his Mannheim office on April 9. Arrested on charges of inciting hatred against segments of the population and defaming the memory of the dead in print, speech and on the Internet, the German-born former schoolteacher and bus driver will stand trial in the southwest German city from Nov. 8. If convicted, Toben, currently in custody near Frankfurt, could spend up to five more years in prison. Institute colleagues and revisionist historians like England's David Irving claim that Toben is an innocent abroad, a political prisoner and martyr to historical truth. But they would be hard pressed to find much support outside their own circle.

The Nazi attempt to exterminate Jews from Germany and occupied countries—

documented by its perpetrators with meticulous records—is widely recognized as an almost unimaginable crime; the very emblem of evil in the modern age. To the Adelaide Institute's acting director Geoffrey Muir, however, it is "well-attested historical truth" that the gas chambers

historian. Neither are most of his revisionist cohorts. Says Robert Manne, associate professor of politics at Melbourne's La Trobe University: "Not one of them has any historical training, except David Irving, who has not written anything that comes within a cooee of scholarship on the Holocaust." Manne says that when he was editor of the conservative Australian journal *Quadrant*, he was deluged with newsletters from the Institute: "I doubt whether I have ever seen anything as disgusting."

Germany is determined to take strong action to prevent the rehabilitation of National Socialism: it's a federal crime to deny or play down the Holocaust's existence by using the so-called "Auschwitz lie." In the wake of the law's implementation in 1994, several neo-Nazi leaders were arrested and convicted, among them American Gary



**DENIER:** Toben says Jewish prisoners in Auschwitz and other concentration camps like Buchenwald, right, were not systematically murdered. "Germans never exterminated European Jewry in homicidal gas chambers," he has said. "Germans can breathe easy now."

**"He is propagating outright lies with the ultimate aim of rehabilitating the record of the Nazi regime."**

—COLIN RUBINSTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIA/ISRAEL & JEWISH AFFAIRS COUNCIL

which effected much of the killing "are a propaganda myth perpetrated by Zionists." It's a view that is given ample expression (by Toben and others) on the Institute's website, which characterizes the Holocaust as "an allegation" and accuses the Jews—whose religious teachings it says "condone lies, brutality, pedophilia and the sadistic killings of Christians"—of inventing the Holocaust "to swindle the world."

Toben has admitted that he is not a

Lauck, who served a four-year sentence for sending anti-Semitic literature and videos to Germany. Sympathizers consequently watch their words and keep a low profile, while revisionists like Irving, who was convicted and fined on a previous visit, now stay out of the country.

Toben, however, was eager to publicize his visit. Before leaving Australia he alerted several German judges and even went to the trouble of arranging his meeting with Klein



# Pope resignation shows crisis in Catholic Church, European Civilization

By Dr. Webster G. Tarpley, Sun Feb 17, 2013 10:58AM



Pope Benedict XVI

**Over six centuries, many popes have grappled with terminal illness, and doubtless with despair. Ratzinger's narrative seems to be that, since he lacked the courage to fire the most corrupt cardinals of the curia, the only alternative was to fire himself. Despite the chloroform being offered to the faithful by some commentators, this is no profile in courage."**

**Benedict XVI resigned as Roman Pope last week. Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope in 2005, at the height of the Iraq war. Papal names often reflect a symbolic message, and his choice of Benedict XVI was widely seen as being in this tradition.**

A century ago, Benedict XV was an energetic and courageous man who mobilized the Vatican diplomatic corps to end World War I and to arrange a negotiated peace. Benedict XV was hated especially by the British, who considered him a sympathizer of the Central empires.

Something of the spirit of Benedict XV lived on in Wojtyla, the Polish pope. When the Panamanian leader Noriega took refuge in Panama in 1989, the Vatican resisted enormous US pressure to turn him over immediately. John Paul II opposed the first [Persian] Gulf War in 1991. In January 2003, John Paul II, referring to Iraq, told the Vatican diplomatic corps that war is not just another tool of statecraft, but must be "the very last option." In March 2003, two days before Bush's attack on Iraq, John Paul II argued that it is never too late for negotiations to bring about peace. Pio Laghi, the Vatican's nuncio in Washington, told the press that this war was "unjust" and "illegal." In June 2004, Wojtyla -- although crippled by illness and old age -- told Bush to his face that the Holy See opposed the Iraq war, and

according to some accounts berated him quite strongly.

Benedict XVI thus took office with an anti-imperialist overtone, implicitly tasked with working to end the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and preventing new aggressions and destabilizations. In this regard, the German pope has accomplished very little. Cardinal Ratzinger told the Italian Catholic magazine 30 Days in April 2003 that he supported the Pope's position on the Iraq war - a routine position, and hardly a surprise. After becoming pope in 2005, Ratzinger said almost nothing about Iraq, except to pray for peace. Benedict XVI has not been effective in preventing the wars in Libya and Syria, nor has he raised his voice convincingly against the Obama policy of making Africa into a fire free zone for killer drones.

***Any pope of the post-9/11 era has the imperative moral responsibility of undercutting and preventing the War of Civilizations as theorized by Samuel Huntington. In spite of this, Ratzinger in 2006 quoted slurs against Islam from a Byzantine source, creating an international incident. This deplorable bungling also showed the political incompetence of Ratzinger's hand-picked spokesman, Father Lombardi. If the Spaniard Navarro-Valls had still been on duty, he would almost certainly have told the Pope to remove that needless provocation.***

In July 2011, I visited Rome and witnessed Vatican City fortified and cordoned off as never in the past. At the line of demarcation between Vatican and Italian territory, a series of short stone pillars connected by chains had been erected. The Bernini colonnade had been blocked off. The overall impression was that of a Holy See gripped by fear, and of a Pope under siege. Had Ratzinger succumbed to the incessant Islamophobic scare tactics the US, British, and the Israelis? It seems he had.

**No help for the Christians of the Middle East**

Even in the narrower task of acting to protect the Christian communities of the Middle East and North Africa, Ratzinger has proved impotent. The attrition among Christian Palestinians has if

anything accelerated. The Chaldeans of Iraq, loyal to Rome, have been decimated. The Christians of Libya enjoyed full religious liberty under Qaddafi, but they are now at the mercy of NATO's terrorist death squads. The same goes for Syria, where a branch of Al Qaeda, financed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, is openly contending for power with western support. Patriarch Cyril of Moscow showed exemplary support for his fellow Patriarch of Antioch in Syria, and for the Orthodox, the Syrians, the Maronites, and the Melkites, with a peace pilgrimage in November 2011, but Ratzinger stayed home. Intervening in any of these situations would have placed Ratzinger on a collision course with the US State Department and the Israelis, and this is the point where his courage typically failed him.

The Western tradition features the idea that the Emperor or King is distinct from the Pope, and that conflicts between the temporal and spiritual powers often occur. Around the year 600, Pope Gregory the Great became the founder of the medieval Church by asserting cultural independence from the Byzantine Empire. In 1076, Pope Gregory VII preserved the independence of the Church in the investiture controversy with the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV. Anyone who wants to be Pope should therefore be prepared to stand up to the empire - in today's world, the Anglo-American combine. Ratzinger lacked this basic qualification, since he rendered too much unto Caesar.

In his announcement of his resignation, Benedict XVI stated that he no longer had the physical strength necessary to carry out the duties of his office. In a later statement, he deplored that the church had been defaced and blighted by internal divisions, especially the rivalries among top prelates.

It was not publicly known, but is now reported, that Benedict had been given a pacemaker, the battery for which was replaced about three months ago. While on a recent trip to Mexico, he injured his head. According to Monsignor Paglia, the leader of the St. Egidius movement, Benedict sometimes is unable to recognize persons he has known for a long time. Blood flow to the brain may be reduced from time to time, causing him to become mentally absent.

Nevertheless, most accounts suggest that Benedict is suffering from nothing more specific than old-age. He may have none of the serious afflictions visibly suffered by John Paul II during his last years, in spite of which the Polish Pope remained in office. Some have argued that despair is the one sin cannot be forgiven.

Over this past week, the world press has discussed the two most recent examples of papal resignation. The more recent involves Pope Gregory XII, who quit the papacy in 1415 - sixth centuries ago. The older but more famous example involves Celestine V, whose pontificate started and ended in 1294. Which, if either, of these two examples is germane to the case of Benedict XVI?

### **Two distant mirrors for Benedict XVI**

Gregory XII resigned as part of a successful effort to put an end to the Great Schism in the West, a chaotic time which saw sometimes two and sometimes three popes and anti-popes fighting for supremacy. This Great Schism is little known today, so a word of explanation may be in order. One of the main causes of the great schism of 1378 to 1417 lies in the attempt by the College of Cardinals to weaken the elective monarchy of the papacy, and to replace it with an oligarchy of the cardinals themselves. (This may be what is again happening today under the slogans of collegiality, democratization, and reform.) The Schism came in the aftermath of the Black Death of the 1340s, and occurred against the backdrop of the devastating Hundred Years' War between England and France. This was also the time when the medieval intellectual synthesis was being destroyed by the corrosive nominalism of William of Ockham. The schism represented a general ideological crisis of European civilization, reflecting also the breakdown of feudal monarchy and enormous economic dislocations. As a result of all this, feudal monarchy was weakened, and feudal oligarchy gained in strength.

For almost 40 years after 1378, there were two contending popes - one in Rome, and one in Avignon, France, the latter as a result of the King of France's kidnapping the papacy and moving it there in 1309. For almost a decade after the failed attempt of the Council of Pisa in 1409 to resolve the schism there were three popes - one in Rome, one in Avignon, and one elected in Pisa. The Council of Constance (1414-1418) finally solved the Great Schism in the

West thanks to the Roman Pope Gregory XII, who resigned. The Council ousted the antipopes of Avignon and Pisa. Finally, the church was reunited in Rome under the newly elected Pope Martin V. For the second example of a papal resignation, we must go all the way back to 1294 and the resignation of Celestine V. The future Celestine was a pious hermit - perhaps not so different from the bookish academic theologian Ratzinger. After his election, Celestine V was surrounded by members of the rapacious Caetani or Gaetani family, who played on his weakness and sense of inadequacy, telling him he was no better than other sinners. The Caetani, of course, were greedy for the wealth of the papacy. After only five months, Celestine V resigned. The great poet Dante placed this papal quitter in the vestibule of the Inferno, among the sluggards who lived without infamy but without praise. Dante writes that Celestine "made the great refusal because of cowardice." How close are we here to Ratzinger's fateful decision? At any rate, the results of Celestine's resignation were catastrophic. The leader of the Caetani gang took over as Pope Boniface VIII, and became the deadly enemy of Dante. Boniface VIII carried the sale of church offices - known as simony - to new depths. Due to his megalomania, Boniface failed to avoid a physical confrontation with the brutal King Philip the Fair of France, who literally beat him up. Boniface died soon after, perhaps of apoplexy. At that point, the French King felt free in 1309 to kidnap the papacy from Rome to Avignon in southern France. This was the Babylonian Captivity of the papacy, which then turned into the Great Schism in the West. The Catholic Church was in chaos and crisis for the next century and a half, as we have seen.

Of these two examples, which is more likely to apply to Ratzinger's gesture of despair? Is it the resignation of Gregory XII, which successfully put an end to a long time of troubles and restored stability? Or is it the resignation of Celestine V, which marked the beginning of that very same long period of aggravated crisis? Time will tell, but unfortunately the preponderance of the evidence already points to the second alternative.

### **Roman Curia sees resignation as a disaster for the church**

According to published accounts, consternation inside the Vatican is great. The Vatican observer Massimo Franco

quoted a leading member of the church bureaucracy or Curia in the *Corriere della Sera* as saying: "Now we have to stop this contagion. The resignation of Benedict XVI is a wound: a wound that is institutional, juridical, and in terms of public relations. This is a disaster." This official feared the end of the papacy as a sacred monarchy, with the pontiff reduced to chief bureaucrat.

Franco notes that "if Ratzinger...leaves because he feels he no longer has sufficient energy, this suggests an intolerable burden which could be re-imposed at will by those who in the future might want to destabilize the papacy.... The papal office... appears suddenly 'relativized,' reduced to a dramatically mundane level. It is as if secularism in the form of careerism [of the bureaucrats of the Curia] had defeated this pope, who is considered timid and distant from worldly affairs.... The old paradigm has collapsed."

During Ratzinger's pontificate, the Vatican has been under continuous media and other attack. This is not new. Many of the conflicts and scandals have a real basis in fact, but there is also no doubt that they have been immensely magnified by the hostility of the ruling elites of Great Britain and the United States. The British, in particular, have been virtually at war with the Vatican since the Guy Fawkes affair of 1605, or better yet since Henry VIII.

Franco situated Ratzinger's resignation in the context of this permanent crisis atmosphere in the Vatican: "A Pope who can be pushed to resign is weaker, and exposed to pressure which can become overwhelming. It is impossible to remove the suspicion that the abrupt action carried out by Ratzinger comes after a long series of continuous and crushing pressures behind the scenes, of which the Vatileaks scandal, the upheaval at the Institute of Religious Works (the IOR, known as the 'Pope's bank'), and the trial of the pope's butler Paolo Gabriele have been only a part."

***The worldwide scandals involving pedophile priests have doubtless exacted a heavy toll. A recent example is that of Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles, who has now been exposed for systematically protecting pedophile priests from exposure and prosecution. Mahony, according to the Washington Post, is lucky not to be in jail himself. Even so, it looks like Mahony will be allowed to attend the conclave when it begins on March 15, and will thus be judged worthy of casting a***



***vote for the next pontiff. According to some accounts, a significant number of the notoriously reactionary American Catholic bishops, including some in the Roman Curia, are protecting Mahony from any accountability or sanctions within the church. The potential here for even greater scandal, perhaps during the conclave, is immense.***

#### **American prelate urged hiring of alleged source of Vatileaks**

Just as the Wikileaks document dump of 2010 was carefully designed to target political leaders on the CIA hit list, the so-called Vatileaks scandal of 2012 has destabilized the Vatican. Vatileaks involved the publication in Italian and other newspapers of a series of previously secret internal documents of the Roman Curia, allegedly providing evidence of massive bribery and corruption, as well as of cutthroat rivalry among the various factions and cliques of the Curia. These documents are said to have profoundly shocked Ratzinger, who should instead have recalled Paul VI's warning that the devil was active inside the church. The Pope's butler (maggiordomo), Paolo Gabriele, has been convicted by a Vatican tribunal of revealing these secrets.

Gabriele was hired on the strength of a recommendation from the American prelate James Harvey of Milwaukee, who from 1998 until last year served as the Prefect of the Papal Household. That recommendation alone should have led to Harvey's ouster as a matter of simple ministerial responsibility. But Ratzinger once again showed his tragic weakness by rewarding Harvey with a promotion to cardinal, making him the dean of one of the main Roman basilicas. Ratzinger, it should be added, has always been surrounded by American churchmen of dubious loyalty to Rome.

One of the most lurid documents in the Vatileaks series is the so-called Mordkomplott or report on a supposed conspiracy to assassinate the Pope, which was published by the pseudo-left Italian newspaper *Il Fatto Quotidiano* on February 10, 2012. Here we read that in December 2011, Cardinal Paolo Romeo of Palermo had informed Chinese government officials that Benedict XVI would be dead within 12 months. Chinese officials surmised that an assassination plot was afoot. The document further alleged that, according to Cardinal Romeo, Ratzinger was

already grooming Cardinal Scola of Milan to be his successor.

Franco sees Ratzinger as "crushed by the impossibility of reforming the institutions, with a further metaphor: a temptation to retreat that goes beyond the Vatican walls and symbolically involves Europe and the entire Western world. The resignation of Benedict XV, the 'German pope,' ends up appearing as the resignation of a continent and of a form of civilization which have entered a profound crisis...."

Perhaps Franco is joining in the big push by the pro-NATO media to blame everything on the entrenched and demonized cardinals of the Roman Curia, starting with the Cardinals Bertone and Sodano. Here we need to be skeptical. Some of Benedict XVI's biggest headaches have come from the ceaseless Anglo-American media barrage of negative publicity, the Anglo-American gloating over Vatileaks, and the ceaseless Anglo-American financial warfare (internal subversion and outside attacks) against the Vatican financial institutions, which has been going on since the days of Bishop Marcinkus, Michele Sindona, and Roberto Calvi.

Massimo Franco reports that there is in the Vatican "the widespread feeling is that, in order to rebuild, the next pope will first of all have to deconstruct, if not destroy." Such a general purge be all right for the anarchist Makhno, but it can hardly apply in this case.

#### **Oligarchs disguised as reformers threaten the conclave**

A valuable perspective comes from a distinguished conservative Catholic author living in Milan, who warns: "The crisis of the Church is extremely serious, and there is a danger that the conclave will make this evident in a scandalous way: there are Cardinals (somehow represented by the recently deceased Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan) who want 'more collegiality,' meaning the subordination of the monarchical role of the Pope under an oligarchy of Cardinals. This will be presented as 'democratization,' but it will be an oligarchical transformation: basically along the lines of what is happening in the European Union, where we have the domination of unelected oligarchies through figures like Draghi, Monti, and van Rompuy." Could the Vatican survive under an anti-charismatic bureaucratic cipher like Van Rompuy?

Our Milan source continues: "The most reassuring hypothesis is that Ratzinger quit in such a way as to still be around to guide the nomination of the next

pope. Either that, or that he resigned after having obtained a convergence of the cardinals concerning his successor. A name often mentioned is that of Angelo Scola, whom Ratzinger brought from Venice to be archbishop of the Milan archdiocese, politically the most powerful one. We will have to wait and see if the 'progressive' (i.e., oligarchical) rebels will accept calmly this or not. The followers of Carlo Maria Martini are still strong." - Martini was the Jesuit Cardinal who acquired progressive cover by alluding to the possibility of women as priests in an interview with the New York Times in 2002.

#### **Inherent problems of an emeritus pope**

The papal resignation is a shock to 1.2 billion Roman Catholics around the world. For six hundred years, they have been accustomed to seeing one Pope in the Vatican, and not two. Ratzinger reportedly wants to retire first to the summer palace at Castel Gandolfo south of Rome, and then to a nunnery in a quiet corner of the gardens of Vatican City. Will he be photographed? Will he give interviews? Celestine V is said to have sought solitude to hide his shame after quitting. What if the next pope decides that he does not want Ratzinger anywhere near the Vatican? What if he tells the ex-pope to go back to Bavaria? There is also the theological question of whether any resignation can be valid. Cardinal Dziwisz of Cracow in Poland, the former secretary of John Paul II, seemed to suggest that resignation is not appropriate. A Roman priest commented that a father cannot resign his role in the family simply because the children rebel against discipline. Once the Pope, always the Pope, is the argument of others. It is obvious that any group of malcontents or subversives might be tempted to seize on the figure of Ratzinger as the reference point for their agitation.

Over six centuries, many popes have grappled with terminal illness, and doubtless with despair. Ratzinger's narrative seems to be that, since he lacked the courage to fire the most corrupt cardinals of the curia, the only alternative was to fire himself. Despite the chloroform being offered to the faithful by some commentators, this is no profile in courage.

The Roman popes claim to be the successors of St. Peter and thus the representatives of Christ on earth, but this claim has a hard time coexisting with papal resignations. Either the Pope is the choice of the Holy Spirit, or he is

simply a bureaucratic administrator or executive who can quit or be forced out if things are not going well - like a French prime minister under the Fourth Republic, or an Italian premier of today. Gregory XII could justify his resignation with the need to put an end to the Great Schism. Ratzinger's motivation is still not entirely clear.  
WT/HMV

**Dr. Webster Griffin Tarpley** was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1946. A philosopher of history, Tarpley seeks to provide the strategies needed to

overcome the current world crisis. He first became widely known for his book *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* (1992), a masterpiece of research which is still a must read. During 2008, he warned of the dangers of an Obama presidency controlled by Wall Street with *Obama: The Postmodern Coup, The Making of a Manchurian Candidate* and *Barack H. Obama: The Unauthorized Biography*. His interest in economics is reflected in *Surviving the Cataclysm: Your Guide Through the Worst Financial Crisis in*

*Human History Against Oligarchy*. His books have appeared in Japanese, German, Italian, French, and Spanish. Tarpley holds a Ph.D. in early modern history from the Catholic University of America.

[More articles by Dr. Webster Griffin Tarpley](#)

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/02/17/289386/pope-resignation-shows-crisis-in-church/>

## The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science, By Will Storr

**This book argues that the heretic's ability to reinvent reality is a universal human condition**  
**COLIN TUDGE, FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2013**

David Irving went to prison for insisting that the Holocaust never took place, and even if it did it wasn't as bad as has been made out - and in any case Hitler didn't know about it. At least, says Irving, there is no written evidence that Hitler ever ordered the extermination of the Jews - and without such evidence, it's all rumour.

But in a speech on 30 January 1939, Hitler said that "if the international finance Jewry... succeed once more in plunging nations into world war... the consequence [will be] the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe". Ah, said Irving, when Will Storr confronted him, Hitler was merely predicting - not recommending. In any case, Hitler didn't say "annihilate". He used the word *ausrotten*. Nowadays *ausrotten* does mean "exterminate" - but in 1939 it simply meant "extirpate", root out; which, says Irving, is not the same thing at all.

Irving's scholarship is impressive, as other historians largely agree. But Storr is scholarly too, and sent off for a Chambers' 1939 German-English dictionary. It says: "*Ausrott* -en, v.a. extirpate, exterminate, root out. Comp. -ungs -fried m war of extermination". In 1939, in short, whether by way of recommendation or prophecy, Hitler did say "exterminate". On this significant point of detail Irving the scholar is wrong.

So is Irving a liar, or simply less assiduous than he often appears? Neither, says Storr. The truth is far more subtle and disturbing. For although Irving epitomises what most people mean by "heretic" - promulgating ideas that seem way off-beam and potentially dangerous - both

his obsession and his misrepresentations reflect, in extreme and unprepossessing form, how human minds in general really work.

Our brains - and those of other people whom we admire as intellectuals - are far more Irving-like than we might care to believe. For Irving above all is a story-teller. Steered as all of us must be by his genes and upbringing, he has created his own worldview, his own account of how things are. Once the personal narrative is properly worked out then nothing, not even black-and-white evidence, can shift him. Once he had it in his head that Hitler never mentioned extermination, the mere fact that he did would not lead him to change his story.

But we are all condemned to live entirely in our own heads. What we know of the outside world is compounded from our inherited preconceptions and from streams of codified electrical pulses that flow into our various receptor centres: 33 dedicated to vision alone. Our brains, and sense organs, perforce are highly selective: for we are assailed with an estimated 14 million bits of information per second of which we can register only a minute proportion. Our impression of reality is, in truth, a master-class in reinvention.

From birth to age two our brains are wonderfully flexible - adding another 1.4 million synapses per second; eager to learn more. But as we mature, we enter consolidation mode. We turn what we have learnt into a coherent story. Once the story is nicely rounded out our brains and our minds seem to say, "Enough's enough!" Then, new impressions are either ignored or re-

shaped to fit what we think we already know. Politicians and academics like to tell us that their policies and theories are "evidence-based", yet they, perhaps even more than most of us, use all new information primarily to reinforce their existing worldview.

Irving is an archetypal heretic: certainly an eccentric, perhaps even a psychopath, and in any case just plain wrong. He deserved to be punished, we may feel. But people who question accepted truths are sometimes right (or just as right as the orthodoxy) - yet they too are likely to be outcast.

This is nowhere more obvious than in science, even though the modern myth has it that science is the haven of fearless, original thinking. So it was that in 1982, Rupert Sheldrake in *A New Science of Life* proposed the notion of "morphic resonance": suggesting that all living creatures directly influence the form of others of similar kind who come afterwards. It sounds weird - but Sheldrake was known as an outstanding scientist and his idea is testable, which is the criterion of bona fide science. So *New Scientist* ran a competition to suggest ways of testing it. In contrast, *Nature*, edited then by the conservative John Maddox, declared that Sheldrake's book should be burnt.

Since then, among other things, Sheldrake has shown beyond what is normally considered to be reasonable doubt that telepathy is a fact, not least in humans and in dogs. But he is hounded by the Skeptics, a society formed in 1992 to root out unorthodox thinking everywhere; and they worship "the amazing" James Randi, a stage magician who set up the James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) to protect

us from "the true danger of uncritical thinking".

The Skeptics and Randi (at one point supported by Nature) strive tirelessly to debunk all trials that claim to demonstrate the value of everything from telepathy to homoeopathy. Randi has offered a \$1 million prize to anyone who can demonstrate any non-orthodox claim – and, he says, no one has seriously taken him up. However, says Storr, those who have tried to deal with Randi tell a very different tale: that whenever someone does rise seriously to his challenge, they can't agree on the rules.

Most of us write off Irving as a dangerous nutter, while Randi is widely seen as the heroic defender of rationality and hence of truth. Yet they are two of a kind. Both are convinced that they are "evidence-led", but both defend their worldview to the death whatever the evidence may throw at them. So too, as Storr relates, do the fundamentalist Creationists who see Darwin as the anti-Christ – and the fundamentalist atheists who aim to shoot them. But then – there but for the grace of God go all of us. It's how our brains work.

The Heretics throws new and salutary light on all our conceits and beliefs. Very valuable, and a great read to boot, this is investigative journalism of the highest order.

Colin Tudge's new book 'Why Genes Are Not Selfish and People Are Nice' is published by Floris in March

[http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-heretics-adventures-with-the-enemies-of-science-by-will-storr-8495338.html#disqus\\_thread](http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-heretics-adventures-with-the-enemies-of-science-by-will-storr-8495338.html#disqus_thread)

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**toben** • a few seconds ago

Interesting how a man like Will Storr, who believes in the scientific method, rejects the Revisionists' scientific research that has failed to prove the existence of six million Jewish deaths, the existence of the homicidal gas chambers and the German state-ordered systematic extermination of European Jewry.

Naturally such a mindset would also remain silent on the legal persecution of those individuals who refuse to believe in the official conspiracy theory of the Holocaust-Shoah, i.e. Germans systematically exterminated in homicidal gas chambers European Jewry.

Holocaust revisionists are still waiting for one person to fulfill Prof Robert Faurisson's challenge: 'Show me or draw

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Fredrick Toben

Adelaide [toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)

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***The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science* by Will Storr – review**

**A self-proclaimed sceptic goes in search of the deluded, from UFO spotters to Holocaust deniers**

**Gavin Francis,**

**[The Guardian](#), Wednesday 13**

**February 2013 07.00 GMT**



**A sign in Roswell, New Mexico, where ufologists believe aliens crash-landed in 1947. Photograph: Joseph Sohm/Visions of America/Corbis**

Bertrand Russell's essay "On the Value of Scepticism" was published 85 years ago this year. Its opening lines are as relevant today as they were then: "I wish to propose a doctrine which may, I fear, appear wildly paradoxical and subversive. The doctrine in question is this: that it is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatever for supposing it true." His proposal was "wildly paradoxical" because Russell understood that most of us do not use reason to form our beliefs. Most of what we believe is formed instead by an eclectic brew of formative influences, emotional hunches and selective concentration on evidence that supports our own prejudices. We are all victims of this "[confirmation bias](#)", but most of us like to think we'd have the good grace to change our minds if faced with incontrovertible evidence.

Enter Will Storr, whose first book [Will Storr vs the Supernatural](#) (2006) was a journalistic investigation of "the truth about ghosts". With *The Heretics* he has returned to similar ground and, as if taking on Russell's mantle, sets out to question individuals who persist in beliefs about the world that are, in his view, demonstrably false. "I like to write about these people," Storr confesses, "it is like being a tourist in another

universe." At first glance the chapters of this book seem like a straightforward series of magazine pieces, with Storr in the role of objective journalist driven to uncover the truth, then persuade others of his arguments. We expect him to poke fun at some of the wackier believers – the UFO-spotters, yoga fundamentalists and past life regression fanatics have some rollicking arguments with the belligerents among them, and emerge crowned in the conclusion, a champion for science. But as you read on, something darker, more complex, and potentially more interesting begins to unfold. The other universes he tours are brought rather closer to home: the heretics "are magic makers", he tells us, and he feels "kinship" with them. This is not what we expect of the sceptical journalist. He confounds other expectations by being naturally shy, and by refusing to champion anything. He confides that he likes being a journalist because it frees him from the demands of social conversation, and that he is at ease in only two situations: with a voice recorder and a list of questions, or lying on his therapist's couch.

Storr can open chapters like a stage conjurer, and his prose has an easy, laconic style embracing [Jon Ronson](#)'s taste for the fabulously weird and [Louis Theroux](#)'s ability to put his subjects at ease. He is a funny and companionable guide (though occasionally he breaks his flow with excessively transcribed dialogue). Current neuropsychology is a theme, and the two chapters he spends exploring theories of mind, emotion and intuition are among the best.

As the book goes on, we understand it to be as much about the author's own therapy as it is about the subjects of his investigations. We hear how he dropped out of college, fought with his parents, stalked a former girlfriend, fell into drug abuse and petty crime. We see him anguished, contemplating suicide, and masturbating on a meditation retreat. For the most part this level of candour isn't distracting, but endearing. But by the end of the book I began to worry a little for him, too.

The book opens with a quote from the psychologist Jerome Bruner: "A self is probably the most impressive work of art we ever produce." Storr wants us to understand that it is not just "heretics" but all of us who are riddled with untested beliefs. In his search to understand how we construct our inner worlds he talks to chronic schizophrenics who have fought against the prevailing



medical model of their disease, and attempted to view the particularities of the way they see the world more creatively. He spends time with a creationist, trying to understand how he can explain away the fossil record. He has a chilling encounter with a therapist whom he suspects of implanting false memories of demonic sexual abuse in the minds of vulnerable patients. At a "sceptics" conference he questions some self-righteous individuals with a passionate hatred of homoeopathy, only to discover that none of them has read the research that they refer to. One of the most pitiable groups he encounters are the sufferers of [delusional parasitosis](#), who scratch their skins until they bleed because of a belief that they are infested by insects ("morgellons") despite the lack of any evidence to support them. But it is towards the end of the book, when he meets the right-wing ideologue [Lord Monckton](#) and the Holocaust denier [David Irving](#), that he begins to excavate darker and more dangerous territory – the places where humanity's wilful self-delusion can lead. Going undercover with some neo-Nazis he finds himself standing in a gas chamber, listening to Irving point out how the chamber is a fake, a "typical Polish botch job". Shuddering with horror, Storr turns away from the group and begins to cross himself. And so the fearless defender of reason finds himself warding off evil with a gesture from a religion that he professes to have disowned. This is a revelatory moment: he has demonstrated that we are all capable of prejudice, and each of us is an "enemy of science" in our own way. But what matters most to Storr is that we don't find ourselves enemies of compassion and understanding as well. We can believe what we like, as long as we don't hurt others with our beliefs. The book could have ended there, but there are two more chapters (on ESP and the arch-sceptic [James Randi](#)) and then an epilogue, none of which manages to build on Storr's moment of clarity in the gas chamber – the real climax of this uneven but thought-provoking book.

I began reading *The Heretics* thinking that Bertrand Russell, that old pipe-smoking pacifist, would have approved of it, but by the end I was doubtful. About the widespread adoption of sceptical rationality Russell wrote: "these propositions may seem mild, yet, if accepted, they would absolutely revolutionise human life." He wanted to see reason adopted more thoroughly,

despite knowing that it would "diminish the incomes of clairvoyants, bookmakers, bishops, and others who live on ... irrational hopes". But Storr doesn't want to do away with his heretics – their beliefs "glitter and pulse and enchant" while the cold rationalists look on glumly, touting "glitter-extinguishers". His enthusiasm for the straggling cavalcade of human beliefs is at odds with some of his other conclusions, but maybe it's churlish to expect consistency. "Bring on the psychics," he declares towards the end. "Bring on the alien abductees – bring on a hundred of them ... Wrongness is a human right."

•Gavin Francis's

*Empire Antarctica* is published by Chatto.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/feb/13/heretics-adventures-will-storr-review>

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**FredrickToben**

**17 February 2013 3:39am**

Interesting how a man like Will Storr, who believes in the scientific method, rejects the Revisionists' scientific research that has failed to prove the existence of six million Jewish deaths, the existence of the homicidal gas chambers and the German state-ordered systematic extermination of European Jewry.

Naturally such a mindset would also remain silent on the legal persecution of those individuals who refuse to believe in the official conspiracy theory of the Holocaust-Shoah, i.e. Germans systematically exterminated in homicidal gas chambers European Jewry. Holocaust revisionists are still waiting for one person to fulfill Prof Robert Faurisson's challenge: 'Show me or draw me the homicidal gas chamber at Auschwitz'. To date it remains unfulfilled. Why? Because empirical evidence, not just idle chatter, will prove that the Holocaust has no reality in space and time, only in memory! Fredrick Toben

Adelaide [toben@toben.biz](mailto:toben@toben.biz)

**The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science by Will Storr – review**

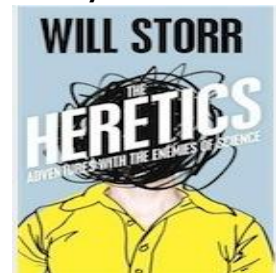
These conversations with assorted sceptics are enlightening, but do not convince

**Mark Henderson, The Observer**, Sunday 17 February 2013

Science is one of humanity's greatest cultural achievements. By testing ideas against evidence, our species has been

able to trace the course of evolution, to devise medicines that prolong lives, and even to glimpse the first microseconds of the universe. For all its success, though, there remains no shortage of people who doubt science's insights and achievements, sometimes preferring bizarre beliefs that count as unproven or disproved under its lens. Even the most compelling evidence cannot always dent the popularity of attractive but groundless stories.

**The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science**  
by Will Storr



This human reluctance to spurn a tall tale that we would like to be true is worth understanding, and the project on which Will Storr embarks in *The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science* is therefore an admirable one. In seeking out creationists and homeopaths, Holocaust-deniers and past-life regression therapists, he seeks not to mock strange convictions, but to get inside the minds of those who hold them.

The result is an entertaining journey dotted with some fascinating reportage. Storr tells good stories, which sometimes shed interesting light on the psychology and delusion of belief. His account of a tourist trip around concentration camps, with [David Irving](#) as a grumpy and self-absorbed guide, is outstanding, exposing both the historian's staggering ability to deceive himself, and a surprising diversity of behaviour among his neo-Nazi acolytes. Other strong chapters detail [morgellons](#) – an itching syndrome that sufferers claim is caused by mysterious fibres, but which medicine does not recognise – and a damaged woman who disowned her family after "recovering" memories of Satanic abuse. In each case, Storr remains sufficiently dubious of improbable claims, but sufficiently open to the genuine distress of those who make them, to explore alternative explanations for their plight that fall the right side of Occam's razor. It is the very quality of these chapters, however, that makes Storr's book

disappointing and infuriating. For having shown he can achieve the kind of sceptical distance that makes Jon Ronson and [Louis Theroux](#) such effective chroniclers of weirdness, he casts it aside in an indulgence of wishful thinking. It is not enough for Storr to consider why people believe weird things; he also wants to challenge whether these things really are weird. He seems to accept, deep down, that they are, but he doesn't want to admit this. He is like the child who still wants to believe in Father Christmas, but who is just old enough to know better. Life would be more magical, more fun, if the story were true.

So it is that homeopaths are given a more sympathetic hearing than sceptics, with no discussion of the harm that unscientific medicine can do: Storr's storytelling does not extend to children like [Neon Roberts](#), denied timely radiotherapy for his brain tumour as his mother sought an "alternative". [Rupert Sheldrake](#), who posits that dogs can sense when their owners are coming home, shakes Storr's certainty that telepathy does not exist. "A new grey space has been nudged between the black and the white," he says. "And it is invigorating to have some mystery back."

For a book about the "enemies of science", Storr does remarkably little to engage with what science is. He explores the psychology and neuroscience of belief, explaining how all of us are prone to confirmation bias and cognitive dissonance: scientists are people, who fall into these traps from time to time. But he never considers that the great strength of the scientific approach is its recognition of these weaknesses of human thinking, and its attempts, albeit partial and imperfect, to erect defences against them. This is why randomised controlled trials, statistical significance and fair experimental design matter. They help us to avoid seeing only that which we find invigorating.

Also absent from *The Heretics* are the ideas of Thomas Bayes, the great statistician celebrated in [Nate Silver's \*The Signal and the Noise\*](#). Bayes's insight was that a claim should be judged not only against new information about it, but also according to the prior probability of its truth. An observation that appears to contradict a well-attested phenomenon – such as [faster-than-light neutrinos](#) – is more likely to be noise than signal. To win support for hypotheses that are scientifically implausible – such

as [homeopathy](#), telepathy and morgellons – exceptional evidence is therefore needed. The onus is on the believer to find it, not on the sceptic to show it does not exist.

Without Bayes, Storr wastes time and space on trivialities that don't really matter. While his skill as an interviewer successfully paints [James Randi](#), the sceptic champion, as an unpleasant bully who can be creative with the truth, he fails to recognise that this does not refute his arguments, nor confirm those of the heretics Randi debunks. "Bring on the psychics, bring on the alien abductees," says Storr. Yet even if Randi exaggerates from time to time, it remains far more probable that he, not the psychics, is right.

It is all very well to approach weird beliefs with an open mind, but as the aphorism goes, you must be careful not to leave it so open that your brains fall out.

**Mark Henderson is author of *The Geek Manifesto: Why Science Matters***  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/feb/17/heretics-adventures-science-storr-review>

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**[WillStorr](#)**

**17 February 2013 1:00am**

Thanks so much for your review, Mark. I'm glad you enjoyed the bits of *The Heretics* that you did. I would just like to draw your attention to a couple of bits you seemed to have missed, though.

- "No discussion of the harm that unscientific medicine can do" - apart from the one on page 130

- "He never considers that the great strength of the scientific approach is its recognition of these weaknesses of human thinking, and its attempts, albeit partial and imperfect, to erect defences against them" - apart from when I do on page 125 and pages 377/378 ("The scientific method is the tool that humans have developed to break the dominion of the narrative. It has been designed specifically to dissolve anecdote, to strip out emotion and to leave only unpolluted data.")

- "Yet even if Randi exaggerates from time to time, it remains far more probable that he, not the psychics, is right." This is a point absolutely I agree with - and I think I'm quite clear about this in the book. I say very explicitly that I don't believe in ESP on page 329, for example, even if Sheldrake's attempts at proving it made me doubt myself. (For the record, I'd say I was about 95% sure that ESP isn't real, which makes me 5% more sceptical

than Prof Richard Wiseman, for example. It's that new 5% I found "invigorating".)

- "He fails to recognise that this does not refute (Randi's) arguments, nor confirm those of the heretics Randi debunks." I don't. That's not at all what the chapter is about. It looks very specifically at whether or not Randi has is a liar (he admits, in the book, that he is: "there have been untruths"), not whether or not Randi is right about his beliefs on the paranormal. He's quite right, in my view, about homeopathy, spoon bending and all the rest of it.

- "He is like the child who still wants to believe in Father Christmas, but who is just old enough to know better. Life would be more magical, more fun, if the story were true." Guilty.

Will

**[FredrickToben](#)**

**17 February 2013 4:08am**

I find it interesting how Will Storr snuck into his book the Holocaust matter because among skeptics such as James Randi and Michael Shermer, who practically believe only in their own scepticism, they are also Holocaust believers such as is the author of this article, Mark Henderson.

His article does not surprise because this is currently the vogue within academia and the general media - you may deny the existence of God and every other moral value but you dare not deny the Holocaust-Shoah.

Why is this so? I know of a lecturer at The University of Adelaide who literally threatens his students to submit to his version of the official conspiracy theory, i.e. that Germans during World War Two systematically exterminated European Jewry in alleged homicidal gas chambers. Any student that dares ask basic questions about the physical factual problems surrounding this hypothesis are silenced thus: "Your question borders on the offensive!" Then, of course, there are the legendary scholars who spend time in prison because they refuse to believe in the official Holocaust-Shoah narrative. In particular the German academics are cowards because the 1983 legal precedent keeps them in check. In that year Judge Wilhelm Stäglich had his 1950s University of Göttingen doctorate revoked because he had written the book: *The Auschwitz Myth*. There are individuals who blame Jewish interests in suppressing open research on matters Holocaust, but I refute that by stating: Don't only blame the Jews - blame those that bend to their pressure.

In any case, Professor Robert Faurisson's challenge remains unfulfilled and needs to be taken up by those who care for such moral value as truth-telling: Show me or draw me the homicidal gas chamber at Auschwitz! My own take on matters Holocaust-Shoah is that it has no reality in space and time, only in memory, and the above book review as the book itself is merely that - words, words, words.

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Exploring the minds of Holocaust deniers and UFO-spotters who deny common sense

Journalist Will Storr's new book explores the mindset of a former Holocaust denier, a creationist, and UFO-spotters, and questions why for some people 'facts don't work'.

Will Storr is a man who deals in facts. As a journalist of more than 10 years, undeniable evidence and rational data are his bread and butter. There are groups of people, however, who deny the irrefutable; who see cold, hard facts as mistruths or simply inconvenient.

Whether they are Holocaust deniers, creationists, or those who believe in UFOs - there are plenty out there whose view of the world defies centuries of scientific evidence. So why are there intelligent, seemingly rational people like this, who are capable of such unreasonable logic?

The question is the subject of Storr's new book, which explores the 'beliefs of non-believers'. Put simply, he wants to know why 'facts don't work'.

He takes a tour of a Nazi death camp, goes on a UFO-spotting trip, and even a fossil excavation with a renowned creationist, all in the name of investigating outlandish belief systems. Storr studies not only the thought process behind conspiracy theories, but also the unwavering rationalism of their opponents.

His result, 'The Heretics: Adventures with the Enemies of Science', has been described as hilarious and gripping in equal measure, owing to the characters he meets along the way.

Some of the 'heretics' are harmless oddballs, including a woman who says during a UFO-spotting session: "If a UFO lands, you must wait until it's stopped completely before approaching. "Only invite the ETs to come closer if it is absolutely safe to do so. If anyone

gets zapped, the first-aid kit is in the back of my tent."

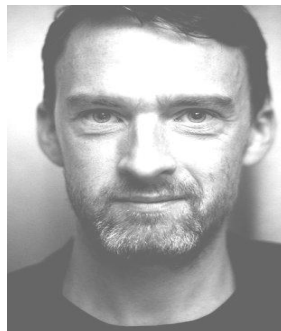


### **Storr spent time with Holocaust denier David Irving at a concentration camp in Poland (Will Storr)**

On his quest to explore nonsensical logic, he also tours a Nazi death camp with former Holocaust denier David Irving.

Irving proclaims that a gas chamber they visit in Majdanek, Poland, is actually 'a mock-up of a gas chamber'. Pointing around the room, Irving identifies a door with a handle on the inside, insisting Jews could have got out and that the site did not see any mass murder after all.

There is a door with a handle, but it has no opening mechanism and bolts on the other side - facts which are conveniently ignored by Irving.



Journalist Will Storr began compiling stories for the book in 2008 (Will Storr). Earlier on he meets noted creationist preacher John Mackay, who insists that fossils show no record of evolution and that the 9/11 attacks were God 'punishing' a sinful America.

Storr, 38, explained to Yahoo! News: "This man went to university and is clearly an intelligent person, so how does he come to these ideas? "He says he is a creationist and can feel God in his body - and the book goes along with that idea.

"Despite all the evidence, no matter how convincing it is, he assumes it cannot be right."

Storr admits that some of the beliefs he came across were more offensive than others, but says 'confirmation bias' plays a large role in how we form our views.

This means that many people subconsciously only choose evidence which supports their views, while selectively rejecting evidence which goes against them.

Confirmation bias, he says, relates to the neurological 'hero maker' that we all share. Storr believes we are all driven by an inner narrative, 'where we are struggling through our days to make better lives for ourselves'.

He adds: "Our brain populates this idea with 'heroes' who support our views and 'villains' in our lives who we demonise - it's a very black and white process. This is the world we live in - the brain is a storyteller."

It is not just the likes of UFO-spotters and creationists who are susceptible to confirmation bias, however. Storr notes that rationalists can be just as inflexible in their judgments as anyone else.

He attends a conference of 'sceptics', who insist there is 'no evidence for homeopathy'. When he asks the sceptics what scientific literature on homeopathy they've read to support these claims, many admit they haven't read any.

This isn't to say that homeopathy isn't legitimate - merely that many 'rationalists' dismiss it because they don't want to believe it in the first place. It is the same principle - Storr says we don't base our opinions on evidence, we form opinions first, then seek evidence which backs them up.

Stories, Storr says, are a powerful driving force in shaping our beliefs. As most of our thought processes are done unconsciously, this kind of natural irrationality sees us create narratives which shape beliefs.

"Stories completely control our understanding of the world," Storr says. "You rarely read news reports based only on facts, you see stories which owe a lot to fiction - many are written around a narrative.

"It's mainly a book about stories - the ones these people are telling me, and how our whole lives are imbued with stories."

'The Heretics: Adventures With The Enemies Of Science' is available to buy now. More information on the author is available on the [Picador website](http://uk.news.yahoo.com/will-storr-the-heretics--journalists-explores--why-facts-don-t-work--with--enemies-of-science--114518590.html#N5W669h).

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/will-storr-the-heretics--journalists-explores--why-facts-don-t-work--with--enemies-of-science--114518590.html#N5W669h>